

**WASHINGTON** - "Today we mourn the passing of Rosa Parks, a true American hero. By refusing to give up her seat on a public bus, Ms. Parks brought the civil rights movement to national prominence and paved the way for real reform.

Her actions, though seemingly small, spoke volumes about the plight of black citizens in the South at the time," Congressman Bachus said.

"In 1999, Ms. Parks was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. As a sponsor of the original legislation supporting this award, I am proud to have played a small role in honoring this great American icon," Bachus continued.

"Rosa Parks exemplifies that American phenomenon of ordinary citizens achieving extraordinary results," Bachus concluded.

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